

P-999/CI-88-195AMENDING UNIFORM LINK-UP AMERICA TARIFF

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Barbara Beerhalter	Chair
Cynthia A. Kitlinski	Commissioner
Norma McKanna	Commissioner
Robert J. O'Keefe	Commissioner
Darrel L. Peterson	Commissioner

In the Matter of the Establishment of the
Link-Up America Plan for the State of
Minnesota

ISSUE DATE: July 14, 1989

DOCKET NO. P-999/CI-88-195

ORDER AMENDING UNIFORM LINK-UP
AMERICA TARIFF

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On April 22, 1988 the Commission issued its ORDER ADOPTING PLAN AND APPROVING LINK-UP AMERICA TARIFF in the above-captioned matter. In that Order the Commission established a state-wide program to help low-income households without telephone service obtain service, through a 50% reduction in their service installation fees. The Order required all Minnesota local exchange carriers to participate in the program, called Link-Up America, and established a uniform tariff for service under the program.

The Link-Up America program was developed by the Federal Communications Commission (the FCC), which provides all program funding. The program is administered in large part by the states. Individual state programs must meet certain standards, set by the FCC, to qualify for federal funding. The Commission's April 22 Order and the uniform tariff it adopted complied with those standards.

Under FCC regulations, Link-Up America programs must provide assistance to all applicants who meet federal eligibility requirements. 47 CFR 36.721 (a) (1). On February 27, 1989 the FCC eliminated two eligibility requirements it had previously imposed: (1) that applicants live at an address without telephone service for at least three months prior to the date of application; and (2) that applicants not have received assistance under Link-Up America within the past two years. MTS and WATS Market Structure, Link-Up America, and Amendment of Part 37 of the Commission's Rules and Establishment of a Joint Board, CC Docket No. 88-341, FCC No. 89-78, (released February 27, 1989) Decision and Order.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

The Commission finds that the uniform tariff for Minnesota's Link-Up America Program must be amended to reflect recent changes in eligibility requirements mandated by the FCC. The Commission will revise the uniform tariff accordingly and will distribute new application forms reflecting the new eligibility requirements to all local exchange carriers, human services agencies, and interested community organizations.

ORDER

1. All local exchange carriers shall replace the existing uniform Link-Up America Service Connection Program tariff with the amended uniform tariff, which is enclosed.
2. All local exchange carriers shall use the revised application form which is enclosed to record applications for service under the Link-Up America program.
3. Within 10 days of the date of this Order all local exchange carriers shall make compliance filings with the Department of Public Service indicating their compliance with the requirements of paragraphs 1 and 2.
4. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Mary Ellen Hennen
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)

ATTACHMENTS MAY BE OBTAINED IN HARD COPY FORM ONLY THRU THE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE.